

as half-an-ineh of salt crystals. No aquatic fauna was seen living, but thousands of small dead Spangled Perch (*Therapon unicolor*) were found desiccated above the water line on both western and eastern shorelines. Evidently they had been killed by the rising salt concentration of the lake, which must have been somewhat fresher at previous seasons. The species would periodically enter the lake, when conditions were suitable, from the Lyndon and Minilya Rivers which debouch into it. Brine shrimps (*Artemia* and *Parartemia*) and the gastropod *Coxiella*, so characteristic of most salt lake systems in Western Australia, were absent. Sub-fossil marine mollusca were plentiful on the lake margin some distance inland from the present western shoreline.

The flats around the Marsh are well-grassed and vegetated with various chenopods, such as "roly poly" (*Salsola kali*), and Trichiniums. The most conspicuous forms of life on these flats are birds, such as Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*), Samphire Thornbills (*Acanthiza iredalei*), Pipits (*Anthus novae-zeelandiae*), Blue-and-white Wrens (*Malurus leuconotus*) and Brown Song-Larks (*Cinchorhamphus cruralis*). Along the margins of the lake are found occasional Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). The absence of other water-birds on the lake was noteworthy.

To the west beyond the Marsh flats extended about 15 miles of very interesting sandplain with steep red sandhills, similar to the country around Sharks Bay and slightly reminiscent of the sandplain remnants at Wiluna. The vegetation consisted of a dwarf eucalypt, Banksias and other Proteaceae, spinifex (*Triodia*) and bogota (*Acacia linophylla*). This type of country becomes more open towards the coast and there are occasional clumps of figs (*Ficus platypoda*) on the travertine. On the east side of the Marsh occurs typical Murehison country, consisting of sclerophyllous Acacias with river gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) along the rivers.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Lesser Noddy at Perth.—On July 25, 1959, I saw a single bird on Langley Park reserve, Perth, which I identified as either a Common Noddy or a Lesser Noddy. Recently I ascertained that D. L. Serventy and V. N. Serventy recorded an irruption of the Lesser Noddy (*Anous tenuirostris*) on beaches in the Fremantle and Bunbury areas on July 24, 1959. Therefore the bird I saw was almost certainly of this species.

—A. A. BURBIDGE, Mandurah

Gull-billed Tern at Hamelin Bay.—On January 4, 1962, a single Gull-billed Tern (*Glochclidon nilotica*) was observed over a small lake just to the east of the Hamelin Bay settlement. The bird was traversing the lake and dipping occasionally as though feeding.

This observation was made outside the area in which the species has been commonly recorded (see J. R. Ford, *W.A. Nat.*, 6: 197 and 7: 208), and is, therefore, placed on record.

E. H. and L. E. SEDGWICK, Collie.